

Colinton Garden Club

www.colintongardens.org.uk

Newsletter 103
August 2013



Coming soon...

**Monday 23rd
September
8 pm**

Dreghorn Loan Hall

*'The life of a garden
designer
- planting and
gardens that inspire'*

Tracy McQue
McQue Garden Design

A membership
renewal form is
attached –
please complete and
return to
the Membership
Secretary, Colin
Whitehead
|
Only £6 per
household

Last page for your
Fertilizer Order
Form

From the pen of our Chair...

Dear Reader

This has been a tremendous summer for Colinton Garden Club! Firstly the weather has improved and the garden is making up for lost time after a very slow cold start - how unusual to have azaleas and spring bulbs flowering alongside summertime herbaceous blooms! I am even braving the midges and getting the garden hose out most evenings. So let's hope the warmth continues and we can enjoy our gardens to the full this year.



Secondly it is wonderful news to hear that our previous chairman Christopher Davies was awarded the British Empire Medal for his services to the community in June's Queen's Birthday Honours (see page 2).

Thirdly we won a gold medal for our entry in the pallet garden competition run by the Scottish Gardeners' Forum at Gardening Scotland in May. The theme 'To be or not to be....' was most topical - cleverly displaying in beautiful colours the referendum choice ahead of us in 2014 (photos on Club website). Congratulations to the team of artistic gardeners who produced this little gem: Billy Wheelan, Caroline Wright, Isobel Lodge, Trish Shaw and Chris Tonge.



Lower section
of our entry
in the SGF
Pallet Garden
Competition
and the medal-
winning team



Pen of our Chair... continued

Fourthly (the list goes on!) over 50 of us enjoyed a May evening at the most attractive Dr Neil's garden, which borders on Duddingston Loch, for our summer evening reception, *and* on another evening a fully subscribed group of 20 members strolled down the historic Royal Mile exploring the hidden gardens and hearing so much history from our well briefed guide.

In June, visitors to our Saturday morning open gardens had four delightful gardens in the Spylaw area to peruse - many thanks indeed to our hosts Michael and Caroline Pearson, Catriona Burns, John and Isobel Lodge, and Elspeth MacGregor. The gardens were splendid - so lush, colourful and beautifully planted and tended in their own and different ways. My spies tell me 122 people partook of refreshments and we made a healthy profit for club funds from the plant sale.

Finally, the summer outing to gardens in the Borders lived up to the promise of an earlier recce. A cooler day meant that we were comfortable meandering through the impressive roses and delphiniums of Carolside, taking lunch amid the apples trees of Priorwood, and wending our way through the whitebeam avenues of Monteviot. Thanks go to Susan Plag for her efficient planning.

We shall be promoting the Club at 'Art in the Park' in early September (page 4), and the programme for next season's evening talks has been finalized (page 4). I wish you all a good summer's gardening and look forward to seeing you again soon at our events.

Penny

Committee Matters

From Autumn 2013, the Club Committee comprises

Penny McKee	Chair-person
Diana Ennos	Secretary
Christine Tonge	Treasurer
Colin Whitehead	Membership Secretary
Susan Plag	Programme Convenor
Robert Jones	Communications Officer
Margo Gilchrist	Librarian / School Liaison Officer
Peter Kilgour	IT and Equipment Officer
Joyce Sawers	Hall Officer
William Wheelan	Fertiliser and Bulb Purchasing Officer

Jim Murray retired from the Committee in August. Jim recently compiled an 'Information and Procedures Handbook for Committee Members'. This invaluable resource will circumvent an all too common cry: "Can anyone remember how we organized that last year?". Many thanks, Jim, for the mechanical, electronic and IT jobs you have performed so willingly.

Elspeth MacGregor also stepped down having served as Treasurer, our fertilizer conduit, and enthusiastic advocate of exotic bulbs. Your hard work on many fronts is much appreciated, Elspeth.

Finally, **Gill Perry** stepped down after sterling work as Librarian and Implements Officer. Well done, Gill!

Non-committee members with specific roles are

Sonia Duffy	Webmaster
Carol Lumsden	Catering
Margaret McDougall	Catering
Jim Murray	Manual Editor
Gill Perry	Implements Officer

Please let us have your suggestions for new types of events we could arrange for your enjoyment.

Queen's award to past Club Chairman

The Club is pleased to congratulate Christopher Davies on the award of the British Empire Medal in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours. Chris served first as Club Secretary and then as Chairman for six years, running meetings with much good humour, and enthusiastically promoting the Club through personal contact with many in the Colinton area. Chris is also a principal player in our Christmas Pantos – see the website photo gallery.

The award to Chris was made for services to the community. He is a skilled wordsmith and prolific producer of 'pamphlets' - from 'Pen of our Chair' in Club newsletters to The Sign of St Cuthbert's Colinton, and also the many missives required as chairman of the local Probus Club and Faith in Older People and secretary of Torphin Hill Golf Club. This industry cum social nous undoubtedly owes much to his periods of employment throughout the UK, the Continent and Australasia. (Editor)



*We wish
Chris and
Elisabeth
much
happiness
for the
future*



Members' Recipes
Congress Cake – a tray bake
 From Diana Ennos

Pastry Base

8oz / 200g plain flour
 5oz / 125g butter
 2oz / 50g sugar
 1 egg yolk
 3tsp / 15ml cold water

Topping

2oz / 50g coconut
 2oz / 50g currants
 2oz / 50g sugar
 2oz / 50g peel
 2oz / 50g cherries
 2oz / 50g sultanas
 1 egg
 4oz / 100g margarine

Icing

3oz / 75g icing sugar
 Water or lemon juice

Rub fat into flour and sugar to make breadcrumb-like texture
 Add egg yolk and water to make into a stiff paste
 Dust work surface with flour and roll out pastry
 Cover base of greased Swiss roll tin with non-stick baking paper
 Place pastry on top of paper

Melt margarine with sugar over low heat, add beaten egg, and mix in all other ingredients
 Spread topping over pastry base
 Bake in a moderate oven at 180°C until golden brown - approx. 20 min but keep checking

Sift icing sugar into a bowl
 Mix with small amounts of water or lemon juice into a paste
 Apply icing *very thinly* to tray bake when cooked and cool
 Cut tray bake into fingers and serve

Nearby jewels of the NTS

Malleny Garden in Balerno is looking superb following the recent sunny spell. We spent a quiet hour there, talking to the Head Gardener Philip Deacon, before retiring to the Coffee Mill on Lanark Road. The Japanese peonies were looking particularly splendid.



Further afield is **Greenbank Garden**, 8 miles due south of Glasgow (G72 8BY). Celebrating its 250th anniversary this year, Greenbank boasts a walled garden, woodland trails and tearoom / shop. More information may be found in the NTS Summer 2013 magazine or the NTS website. (Editor)

Autumn Plant Sale and Coffee Morning

The Plant Sale will take place on Saturday 5th October 2013 in St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church Hall, Westgarth Avenue, from 10 am to 12 noon.

We are encouraging a **Harvest Time Theme** this year. In addition to plants of all varieties, we should be grateful for offerings of fruit and vegetables. A range of bulbs at highly competitive prices will also be available including more exotic varieties not usually available through retail outlets. Finally, gardening books surplus to the Club's needs will be on sale.

We'll be delighted to receive items for sale from 8.30 on the morning of the event at St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church Hall. Items can also be delivered to committee members the evening before. Please label plants (and unusual fruits and vegetables) with their names and give an indication of the eventual size of plants where possible.

And of course come along to the sale itself, meet your friends, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, and go off with new plants, bulbs and health-giving garden produce!

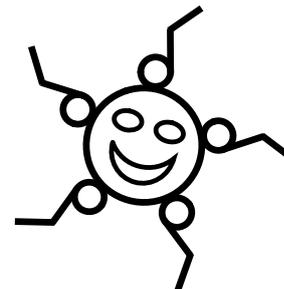


**Lawn lore – tine to create
 'una bella vista' – don't be scarified**

'The Lawn Expert' (2nd revised edition) by DG Hessayon (£5.99 at WH Smith) contains a wealth of information on lawn care, from 'urine patches' – a bitch of a problem - to 'washboarding' – nothing to do with flattening one's abs.

The Club has two grass scarifiers (fairly heavy-duty implements), a hollow tine aerator and a turfing iron for loan to Club members. Gill Perry implements@colintongardens.org.uk has charge of these items.

Received wisdom is to carry out deep scarifying in early Autumn rather than Spring – advice often unheeded owing to our impatience to get out and doing after the Winter!



Tree lopping and pruning tools are also available.

Dates for your diary.....

Monday 23 September 2013	'The life of a garden designer - planting and gardens that inspire' Tracy McQue, McQue Garden Design 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Saturday 5 October 2013	Autumn Plant Sale (Harvest Time theme) and Coffee Morning 10am – 12 noon in St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church, Westgarth Avenue
Monday 28 October 2013 	Talks by Club members: 'Gardens by the Bay in Singapore' Elspeth MacGregor 'Butterflies in your garden' Colin Whitehead 'Pallet gardening at Gardening Scotland' Members of the Pallet Garden Team 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 25 November 2013	'Japanese Gardens' Kristina Taylor, Garden Historian and Writer 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 16 December 2013	Christmas Party 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper hall
Monday 27 January 2014	'Caring for your trees' Mike Charkow, Tree Surgeon, Arbor Vitae, Edinburgh 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 24 February 2014	'A hobby that got out of hand' Stella Rankin, Kevock Garden Plants, Lasswade - there will also be a plant stall 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 24 March 2014	'Victorian Gardens - from Loudon to Jekyll and Lutens' Dr Philip Lusby, RBGE 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall
Monday 28 April 2014	Annual General Meeting 8 pm in Dreghorn Loan – Upper Hall



Apricot rose 'Grace' (David Austin) on display at Carolside Gardens near Earlston

Art in the Park at Colinton

This annual event will take place in Spylaw Park on **Sunday 1st September** (Sunday 8th September if postponed due to bad weather) between 11am and 5 pm.

There will be dance and music performances and a whole variety of stalls to browse in a pleasant setting. As in previous years, the Club will have a stall. Do come along and support this event.



New Members

Please direct anyone interested in joining the Club to the Membership Secretary, Colin Whitehead
21 Laverockdale Park
Edinburgh EH13 0QE

membership@colintongardens.org.uk

Newsletter Delivery

If you do not receive your newsletter, contact Bob Jones, Communications Officer
0131 445 2745

publicity@colintongardens.org.uk

Club Website

www.colintongardens.org.uk
For details of all Club activities
Webmaster: Sonia Duffy

Photo Gallery

Send interesting photos of plants, views and wildlife in your garden, conservatory, etc to publicity@colintongardens.org.uk
Original jpeg files 1 - 3 MB, not web-condensed, please

Bulb and Fertilizer Orders

Billy Wheelan has taken over the ordering of bulbs and fertilizer products. It is still possible to order your Spring bulbs from Parker's – deadline 15th August.

Contact Billy: Tel: 0131 538 4965
bulbs@colintongardens.org.uk